

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 IO-10

TRSE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 /085 W
----- 078729

R 072245Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5862

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS EAIR CA CU VE

SUBJ CIVAIR: CANADA-CUBA RELATIONS

REF CARACAS 2585

1. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN RECENT CANADA-VENEZUELA AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS HAS ADVISED TCO THAT BILATERAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN INITIALED AND WILL BE SIGNED LATER THIS MONTH DURING VISIT TO CARACAS BY INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE MINISTER GILLESPIE.

2. UNDER AGREEMENT VENEZUELAND CARRIER (VIASA) WILL HAVE RIGHT TO SERVE TORONTO OR RPT OR MONTREAL VIA POINTS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PUERTO RICO, CUBA AND NEW YORK. HOWEVER, THE AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE VENEZUELAN CARRIER CANNOT OPERATE VIA CUBA TO CANADA BEFORE APRIL 1, 1979, AND THAT A "COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT" (I.E., A POOLING ARRANGEMENT) BETWEEN THE CANADIAN AND VENEZUELAN CARRIERS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED.

2. SUCH AN AGREEMENT TO BE REASONABLE, HE SUGGESTED,
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WILL REQUIRE THAT CUBAN SERVICE ALSO BE INAUGURATED

BY THE CANADIAN CARRIER BY THAT DATE; ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE AGREEMENT MIGHT SIMPLY PROVIDE A REVENUE SHARE TO AIR CANADA IF IT WERE NOT SO OPERATING. IN ANY EVENT LATTER POSSIBILITY IS PROBABLY ACADEMIC AS AIR CANADA WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE OPERATING SCHEDULED SERVICE WELL BEFORE 1979. THIS OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT PRIORITY FOR INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA SEEMS TO BE MOVING UP AND HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF FIRST ROUND TOOK PLACE BEFORE END OF JUNE. (OUR LATEST REPORT--OTTAWA 439-- WAS NEXT SUMMER AT THE EARLIEST.) BIGGEST PROBLEM ON CANADIAN SIDE AT MOMENT IS DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARTER POLICY SO THAT PRESENT VOLUME OF CHARTER FLIGHTS (LARGELY FLOWN BY AIR CANADA BUT TO LIMITED EXTENT BY NORDAIR AND OTHER REGIONALS) WILL NOT BE CONTINUED TO THE POINT THAT "SUBSTANTIAL IMPAIRMENT" OF THE PROSPECTIVE SCHEDULED SERVICE WILL RESULT.

3. COMMENT: OUR SOURCE WAS SURPRISED THAT USG HAD REFUSED VENEZUELA-CARACAS-SAN JUAN-TORONTO ROUTE AS GOV HAD STATED FIRMLY IT WAS IN THE BAG. TCO INFERRED THAT CANADIAN ACCEPTANCE THIS ASSURANCE MAY HAVE PROVIDED GOV NEGOTIATORS WITH SOME LEVERAGE THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE HAD.

4. SOURCE HAS ALSO PROMISED MAKE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY COPY OF VENEZUELAN AGREEMENT WHEN SIGNED. WE WILL FORWARD TO WASHINGTON AND CARACAS WHEN RECEIVED.
PORTER

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